



# *Before the THRONE*

## *The Devotional*

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

1 Samuel 2:1

“And Hannah prayed, and said, “My heart rejoices in the LORD, my horn is exalted in the LORD, my mouth is enlarged over my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation.”  
1 Samuel 2:1

Hannah had experienced bitter accusations and competitions from her rival Peninnah. Hurtful words had no doubt been exchanged as both women vied for their husband Elkanah’s attention and affection. Years of inner and outward turmoil now break forth into a song of praise as Hannah delivers her first-born son to the prophet. Her triumph is now complete over her adversary. Hannah has not only has born a son, but now that son will grow up to be at the center of Jewish national life being raised and educated by the priest Eli.

There is such a stark difference in how we are taught to approach our enemies from the Old Testament to the New. When we are persecuted, reviled and mistreated, Jesus commands us to do the very opposite of our natural inclination... “Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad!” He further stretches and tests our commitment to Him as He calls us to “love our enemies” and to then “bless them that have cursed you.” Practically it means we are to ask God to pour out His goodness upon their lives – in spite of their treatment of you! Indeed no easy task, but “all things are possible to him who believes.”

Yes, it is one thing to rejoice over our enemies when we have defeated them, but it is an altogether different thing to demonstrate the love of God toward them when we are still being cursed by them, isn’t it?

Thank you Lord for Your love that has been poured into my heart by the Holy Spirit Who has already been given to me! Love even for my enemies, for those who hate me. For those who have misused me. In Jesus’ name I now bless them and ask that You Lord, cause them to know Your goodness. In Jesus’ name and with His help! Amen! (Romans 5:5)